

GOSPORT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH ASSOCIATION

WatchNews

Watch Office, The Police Station, South Cross Street, Gosport PO12 1ES
Newsletter Editor & Sales 023 92583637 email: newswatch@gosportnhw.co.uk
Secretary 023 9252 2439 email: secretary@gosportnhw.co.uk
www.gosportnhw.co.uk

Summer 2009

7,000 copies of this newsletter are delivered in Spring, Summer, Autumn & Winter to homes in the Borough of Gosport. The Association would like to thank Gosport Borough Council for their continued support and help in the production of this newsletter.

Date for your diary – Gosport Neighbourhood Watch Association **Annual General Meeting** Friday 18th September at Bogue Hall, Stoke Road, Gosport at 7.00 p.m. Please show your support.

NEWS FROM OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD SERGEANTS

Your Safer Neighbourhoods team is made up of police officers, special constables, police community support officers and volunteers. We are working together with the community and other partners to tackle local problems and improve the quality of life in your neighbourhood.

Sergeant 3689 David West is responsible for the Safer Neighbourhood team covering the Bridgemary area which includes Bridgemary, North Rowner, Holbrook and Peel Common.

The officers on the team are:

PC Jo James, PC Neil Thorne, PC Paul Rogers, PC Amanda Stanswood, PCSO's are Teresa Savage, Keren Grey, Ian Mitchell. Special Constables are Arron Hall, Jemma Ash, Tony Price.

The Bridgemary Team have conducted high visibility patrols within the beat, to disrupt anti-social behaviour over the month of April. Police Officers, Police Community Support Officers and members of other policing teams patrolled on cycle, foot and car and successfully seized over 40 bottles of alcohol from groups of young people who gathered in public places, the patrols also led to the arrest of three males who had been caught damaging cars. The three males have been released on bail pending further enquiries."

During March and April, I had cause to warn residents over the theft of lead from their homes. The area most affected was Holbrook; residents were finding strips of lead having been removed from their porch ways and windows. I am pleased to report that two adult males were arrested on suspicion of theft and have subsequently been found guilty. They each received a community punishment order and were ordered to pay compensation. I am grateful to Watchnews for circulating our crime prevention advice. I would like to reiterate some of the most important points.

The public can help us and themselves by doing the following...shutting windows, locking doors, keeping keys out of sight and reach, and call the police immediately when they **see anyone acting suspiciously.**

Most thieves are opportunists – Don't give them the opportunity, please remove ladders from your gardens and secure wheelie bins to prevent them from gaining access to flat roofs and porches where most lead can be found and entry can be gained.

On 4th June 2009, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. I am holding a public meeting at the Martin Ramsay Suite, Bridgemary Community School. I would like to invite you to the public meeting where Inspector Cuffe and I will be available for questions and will provide an update on the current state of crime in Bridgemary.

Finally I would like to take the opportunity to introduce a new member of the team; PC Julia Cobb 20684 will join the Safer Neighbourhood Team on the 6th July 2009. Please take a look at the Hampshire Constabulary website at www.hampshire.police.uk for further information on local policing priorities and the action we are taking in your area.

Sergeant 140 Nicola Prior is responsible for the Safer Neighbourhoods team covering Privett, Alverstoke, Leesland and Brockhurst.

Officers on the team are: PC Dave Terrett, PC Ant Withers, PC Dee Dixon, PC Kris Freemantle, PCSO's Tracy Collins, Steve Lloyd, Kerry Digby. Special Constables shared with Elson team are Mark Harrison, Chris Laughton, Shane Buckley and Hannah Owen.

The crime figures for the period 2008 – 2009 were produced in April and it was very good to see that the total crime reported for our area was down 6% compared to the 2007–2008. Looking at our figures from April, the downward trend continues. These figures can be viewed from our internet page and updated on a weekly basis.

Across the beats, we are commencing a pilot scheme that has been very successful in the Oxfordshire area of Thames Valley police, reducing on-street drinking by youths. Any youth caught with alcohol, will be invited along with their parents to attend an alcohol awareness evening. This scheme is to educate both the youths and their parents about the consequences of alcohol on their health and how this impacts on the community. The first workshop is to be held on 17.06.09 and is being run in conjunction with our partner agencies including ourselves; Gosport Borough Council; the Cranstoun Project (who assist persons with drug/alcohol addiction) and Connexions (provides confidential advice and support for young people).

We are now holding beat surgeries and coffee morning at Alverstoke Infant school last Monday of the month between 0900 – 1000 hours. If you would like to speak to us about any issues in the area we would be very pleased to see you.

PS 2685 Gavin Steel is responsible for the Safer Neighbourhoods team for the Alver Valley area. Officers on the team are: PC Joe Smith, PC Mark Adams, PC John Burtenshaw, & PC Nicola Burton, PCSO's Stephen Dean, Jamie Lewis and Brad Adams. Special Constable Stevyn Rickets.

Like any other organisation we are judged on our performance and at the end of the financial year figures are produced which details the success or failure of our work.

I am pleased to report that our neighbourhood has successfully reduced crime by almost 12 % this year. Since the inception of neighbourhood policing in December 2006 the figure shows a 15% reduction. These figures are the highest recorded for any of the neighbourhoods of Gosport. Figures have not been achieved by the police alone but through a variety of agencies working well together. Neighbourhood Watch is part of this partnership encouraging the reporting of issues to us at the earliest opportunity allowing us to get to grips with problems earlier and by pushing the crime reduction message.

Recently the Easter half term saw a slight increase in crime throughout the beat with the North Rowner area suffering a general rise which the team are focusing on. The pressure is now on us all to reduce crime even further which will be a challenge but one we are confident we can achieve.

Sgt 1138 Simon Law is responsible for the team covering Elson.

The officers on the team are PS Sarah Coolahan, PC Clare Parry, PC Mark Barber, PC Helen Perryman. PCSOs are Ian Wright 13471, Ian Wright 13210 and Dawn Ayres.

Elson have a new Sergeant!! Sergeant Simon Law - I've been in the Hampshire Constabulary for 14 years and joined Gosport police station on promotion 5 years ago. Since then I have been supervising a response team as well as covering the role of Custody Sergeant. I have previous experience as a community beat officer covering Warren Park and Leigh Park for several years during which I had a great relationship with my Neighbourhood Watch coordinators and local residents. Together we had many successes in working in partnership to cut crime and deal with antisocial behaviour. I look forward to working with and meeting all of you.

The Elson team have continued to work closely with our partners in reducing anti-social behaviour and crime and have had success in obtaining 3 full ASBO's which will assist in dealing with the main offenders. Posters in relation to two of these offenders will start to adorn local stores public places very soon. In relation to the public order incident involving a large group in the Vale Grove area, we have been very successful with 5 persons being charged and 4 pleading guilty we are still awaiting one outcome of one.

The arsons still continue, the latest being in Dunkeld on 25.04.09. This is a serious problem, residents need to continue to be vigilant as well as making sure all bins are kept well within their boundaries and are taken in once emptied. Enquiries are ongoing and the Fire Brigade are leading a multi agency approach to the problem BUT intelligence is still needed any formation please pass for the attention of PS Law or PC Parry.

Sergeant 1765 Rob Kearley is responsible for the team covering Gosport Town centre and Anglesey. The officers on the team are PC Mark Brenson, PC Celine Bowen, PS Sharon Palmer, PCSO's Sandy Ayriss and Kieran Howard. Special Constables are Paul Johnson, Gareth Thomas, Evelyn Bloomfield, Mandy Horne and Christopher Laughton.

Police to run non-emergency 101

A non-emergency phone line is to become a police only service, the 101 scheme will no longer be a partnership service between Hampshire police and local authorities. The main purpose of the 101 number is to make public services more accessible for non-emergency situations.

Around 270,000 999 calls are made to Hampshire Constabulary each year, but only approximately 11% of these are genuine emergencies. The service has been paid for by Hampshire Constabulary and Hampshire County Council since the Home Office withdrew funding in February 2008.

ARE YOU SECURE?

Many people take a great deal of trouble securing their home and property. However, they'll happily leave valuable garden tools in a shed which is either unlocked or old and so run-down as to prove no obstacle whatsoever to thieves.

Is the structure in good order? - Are there patches of rot or loose slats? If you have identified a problem, fix it now. Reinforce your shed from the inside to make it more resistant to a break-in. This can be done by fixing additional panels to the internal structure.

Are the doors secure? - Shed doors are notoriously easy to break open so strengthen the door or frame if you can. Outside door hinges should be secured with coach bolts or non-return screws. Use strong padbars and close shackle padlocks.

Are the windows secured? - Consider replacing a glass window with a Perspex or polycarbonate sheet. Use a solid window lock and fit a strong grille or heavy wire mesh. Putting up a net curtain can deter casual viewing.

Does your shed have an alarm? - If not, many companies are now offering cost-effective battery powered alarms to use on sheds and outbuildings.

Your property - High burglary rates from sheds indicate that not only are they easy to break into but there is a large market for the stolen contents. With this in mind, consider if the property kept inside would be better stored elsewhere.

Insurance - Do not assume that your home insurance covers the contents of your shed; you need to check this with your insurance provider. Some items within the shed, such as bikes, may need to be insured separately.

Tools and ladders - Tools can be expensive items to replace. If these cannot be stored in a secure location then chain them together. Padlock the chain to an anchor point or place items in a toughened, lockable steel box secured to the ground. Make sure you keep a note of the contents along with serial numbers etc.

Bikes - If you are storing a bike within your shed make sure you use a decent 'D' lock and secure it to a solid anchor point.

FREEBIE – The Home Office has put together a useful pack of information about securing your property against burglary. You can order your home pack by calling 0800 456 1213 and quoting 'burglary pack'. Those who order the pack will also receive a discount voucher for home security supplies at a major DIY retailer.

CLEAN AND BRIGHT STREET SIGNS GIVES THE RIGHT MESSAGE

Still signs are in urgent need of attention. If your sign is faded please inform your Scheme Coordinator so they can order a replacement. Faded signs are no longer a warning to 'would-be' criminals. So check your signs today. For replacements contact Carole on 023 92 583637 or sales@gosportnhw.co.uk.

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As always, if you have any suspicions or serious concerns call the Police on 999 in an emergency otherwise 0845 0454545 or 101